

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORK

CTB MESSAGE NO. 242

1. SUMMARY: TIMERBAEV (USSR), BIRCH (UK) AND NEIDLE (US)
MET WITH ADVISORS JUNE 13 AND 14 TO CONSULT ON WORK
PROGRAM FOR THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP. TIMERBAEV
PRESSED INITIALLY FOR DRAFTING OF ARTICLE I (THE MAIN
PROHIBITIONS) OF THE MULTILATERAL TREATY, BUT EVENTUALLY
ACQUIESCED IN LOOKING TO OTHER AREAS WHEN NEIDLE MADE
CLEAR US DEL WAS NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN DRAFTING OF
ARTICLE I. DISCUSSION ALSO COVERED OTHER FORMAL AND
SUBSTANTIVE POINTS THAT MIGHT BE TACKLED AND CONSENSUS
WAS REACHED THAT IT WOULD MAKE SENSE TO TAKE UP NEXT THE
DRAFT LANGUAGE ON REMAINING POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES,
SUCH AS ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION, REVIEW, AND WITH-
DRAWAL. SEPTTEL PROVIDES SUGGESTED LANGUAGE ON DURATION
AND REVIEW, AND REQUESTS PROMPT RESPONSE TO PERMIT EARLY
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DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVS OF THIS PART OF THE TREATY.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT LAST MEETING OF POLITICAL WORKING GROUP, WHEN DELS
SEEMED TO HAVE DIFFERING VIEWS ON WORK SCHEDULE, TIMER-
BAEV SUGGESTED INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO CONSIDER NEXT
STEPS. AT THESE CONSULTATIONS, TIMERBAEV PRESSED INITIAL-

LY TO DEVELOP COMPOSITE DRAFT OF ART. I OF THE MULTILATERAL TREATY. NEIDLE EXPLAINED THAT THE US DEL WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO BEGIN JOINT DRAFTING OF THIS ARTICLE, RECALLING THAT US HAD INDICATED IN ITS DEC 7 WORKING PAPER THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE UNDERSTANDINGS. HE EXPLAINED THAT USG CONSIDERATION OF THIS HIGHLY TECHNICAL SUBJECT WAS NOT YET FINISHED AND THEREFORE US DEL WOULD PREFER TO TAKE UP ARTICLE I A LITTLE LATER. ALTHOUGH TIMERBAEV EXPRESSED SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT US DEL'S DESIRE TO DEFER TAKING UP THE BASIC PROHIBITION, HE EVENTUALLY AGREED TO EXAMINE OTHER AREAS WHERE WORK MIGHT USEFULLY PROCEED.

3. AFTER REVIEWING POSSIBLE AREAS OF WORK, ALL AGREED THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CONTINUE WORK ON SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, AS OPPOSED TO BEGINNING NOW THE DRAFTING OF MINOR ELEMENTS, SUCH AS THE PREAMBLE. NEIDLE ASKED TIMERBAEV WHETHER THE SOVIETS WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT COMPOSITE TEXT OF NSS ARTICLE (AS OPPOSED TO THE TECHNICAL ANNEX) OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ARTICLE DESCRIBED GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY FOR NSSS WHATEVER DETAILS MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE TECHNICAL ANNEX REGARDING NUMBERS, CHARACTERISTICS, ETC. AFTER CHECKING WITH SOVIET TECHNICAL EXPERTS, TIMERBAEV REPLIED THAT SOVIETS PREFERRED
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TO AWAIT US PROPOSALS ON AN NSS NETWORK AND PROGRESS ON THE TECHNICAL ANNEX BEFORE TAKING UP THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE NSS ARTICLE IN THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF FURTHER WORK ON THE PNE PROTOCOL, NEIDLE NOTED THAT THERE WERE A GREAT MANY LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES IN THE US AND SOVIET TEXTS THAT MIGHT REQUIRE SOME DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION. TIMERBAEV WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF AN IMMEDIATE EFFORT TO WORK OUT COMPOSITE TEXT OF PNE PROTOCOL. HE NOTED THAT ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROTOCOL WERE CONNECTED WITH THE QUESTION OF DURATION AND THAT THEY MIGHT BE HANDLED MORE FLEXIBLY, AT LEAST BY THE SOVIET SIDE, AFTER THE QUESTION OF DURATION AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW HAD BEEN TAKEN UP. ON DURATION, HE BELIEVED IT COULD SPEED UP SOVIET CONSIDERATION OF THE US PROPOSAL IF THE SOVIETS COULD HAVE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FROM THE US AND UK REGARDING DURATION AND REVIEW.

5. BIRCH EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE UK DELEGATION IN MOVING AHEAD ON ARTICLES ON DURATION AND

REVIEW, SINCE AGREEMENT ON A COMPOSITE TEXT COULD FACILITATE WORK ON OTHER PARTS OF THE TREATY. NEIDLE SAID US DEL WOULD REVIEW MATTER AND CONSULT WASHINGTON WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING FORWARD SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. JOHNSON

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